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Private.

Weyland, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1857.

Friend Garrison,

3 I have a couple of favors to ask; and I apply to you, without apology, because I have no doubt that you will like to grant my requests, if you can. In the first place I want you either to lend to me, or borrow for me, Abby's Travels in the U. S. I expect to come down to Boston, on the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, of this month, if weather and travelling permit; and I will call at your house for the volumes. My other request is of a more serious nature, and I should like to have you keep it as much between ourselves as is consistent with granting it. I have heard that you have had remarkable experiences in the way of Spiritual Manifestations. It is a subject which excites a good deal of interest in my mind. I waver between belief and scepticism. I think I am in a perfectly candid state on the subject; but I confess that I cannot overcome my distrust of professional, paid mediums. I want to see the thing tested when no one is present except those I can trust; those who have no pecuniary interest at stake in the matter. Can you put me in the way of any fair and satisfactory experiment on the subject, either at your house, or at Francis Jackson's, when I next come to the city? I mention it before hand, thinking that perhaps it may require some time to make necessary arrangements. What I should like above all things would be to have a mental question, concerning a subject known only to myself and a departed friend answered. If that was answered,



I could not resist the conviction that some agency beyond this world was engaged in it. I have seen scarcely any of the phenomena said to occur, and yet I have seen some things that puzzle me. If it will be in your power to open the way for the gratification of my curiosity, without much talk about it, I wish you would drop a line, to inform me of the when and the where.

In glancing over the Progress of Religious Ideas, have you ever noticed how the subject of Slavery is treated? I believe that no other book has so plainly and candidly stated the action and the feeling of the Christian Church in the early centuries, without leaning either to the pro-slavery or the anti-slavery side. Abolitionists, especially the orthodox, claim more for Christianity than is true; while the apologists of slavery go much more wide of the mark on the other side. You can easily follow the subject through the volumes, by examining the pages under the head of Slavery in the Alphabetical Index, and some time, when you have leisure, I should like to have you do so. You will find some very striking quotations from the old Fathers, and the early Monks; especially one from Gregory of Nyssa. I do not ask you to examine it for my own sake, but for its bearing on the Anti Slavery cause.

What a downright, and forthright, and every way admirable letter was that of George Russell to the Worcester Convention!

Mr Child unites with me in cordial greetings to you and all your household.

Yours very heartily,

L. Maria Child.